



U.S. Department of Justice

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**For Immediate Release:
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EVENT: Settlement

Defendant: Regent Court Apartments

**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT RESOLVES LAWSUIT
ALLEGING RACE DISCRIMINATION AT ROSEVILLE, MICHIGAN
APARTMENT COMPLEX**

The Justice Department today announced it has reached a \$170,000 settlement resolving its lawsuit against the owners and managers of Regent Court Apartments in Roseville, Mich., who allegedly discriminated against African-Americans seeking to rent apartments at the complex. The complaint alleged that Regent Court Apartments, LLC and Donna Harrison, the leasing manager, engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination against African-American applicants for tenancy.

The Department of Justice's lawsuit, which was handled jointly by attorneys from the Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office, was filed in January 2008, based upon evidence developed by the Department's fair housing testing program, as part of the Department's Operation Home Sweet Home Initiative. This fair housing testing program employs individuals

who pose as renters for purposes of gathering information about possible discriminatory practices in the rental of apartments. The Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit, a private fair housing organization, also assisted with the testing pursuant to a contract with the Department of Justice.

Terrence Berg, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, said, "Race discrimination in housing is morally and legally wrong. This settlement represents an important step in our continuing effort to ensure that those who discriminate on the basis of race, or any other unlawful criteria, understand that this will not be tolerated."

Under the settlement, which must still be approved by the court, the defendants will pay \$75,000 in damages to three victims who were discriminated against because of their race at Regent Court Apartments; pay \$55,000 in a civil penalty to the United States; and pay \$40,000 into a settlement fund that will be distributed to any additional victims of discrimination at Regent Court Apartments who are identified following entry of the proposed order. The settlement also requires defendants to undergo fair housing training, self-testing, and reporting requirements for the three year term of the decree.

Any individual who believes he or she may be a victim of race discrimination at Regent Court Apartments can contact lawyers for the United States by calling 1-800-896-7743, mailbox 3, or 313-226-9727.

Fighting illegal housing discrimination is a top priority of the Justice Department. Operation Home Sweet Home, a concentrated initiative to expose and eliminate housing discrimination in America, was launched in February 2006. More information is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/fairhousing>.

The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability and familial status. Since January 1, 2001, the Department has filed 277 cases under the Fair Housing Act, 80 of which have alleged discrimination based on race. More information about the Civil Rights Division and the laws it

enforces is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt>. Individuals who believe that they may have been victims of housing discrimination can call the Housing Discrimination Tip Line (1-800-896-7743), e-mail the Justice Department at fairhousing@usdoj.gov, or contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 1-800-669-9777.